Appl. No. 10/520,497 Amdt. dated January 29, 2009 Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

3 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

4 Listing of Claims:

5 1-29. Canceled.

- 6 30.(Currently Amended) A recombinant DNA vector comprising a promoter
 7 operably linked to a heterologous an truncated NHX1 polynucleotide sequence which consists of
 8 a coding sequence encoding a C-terminally truncated NHX1 polypeptide emprising a C9 terminal deletion, which truncated NHX1 polypeptide comprises a sequence which has at least
 10 90% identical sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 40 2 and is less than 530 amino acids in length,
- wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide confers increased Na* tolerance in a plant compared to
 a plant that lacks the NHXI polymucleotide sequence into which the truncated NHXI
- 13 polynucleotide was not introduced.
- 1 31. (Currently Amended) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein 2 the truncated NHXI polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO. 9.
- 1 32. (Previously Presented) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 10.
- 1 33. (Previously Presented) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein
 2 the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 500 amino acids in length.
- 1 34. (Previously Presented) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein 2 the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 475 amino acids in length.
- 1 35. (Currently Amended) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, further
 2 emprising a wherein the promoter is a plant promoter.

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1	36. (Currently Amended) A purified truncated NHX1 polynucleotide encoding
2	a C-terminally truncated NHX1 polypeptide comprising a C-terminal deletion, which truncated
3	NHX1 polypeptide comprises a sequence which has at least 90% identical sequence identity to
4	SEQ ID NO: 10 2 and is less than 530 amino acids in length, wherein the truncated NHX1
5	polypeptide confers increased Na ⁺ tolerance in a plant compared to a plant that lacks the NHXI
6	polynucleotide sequence into which the truncated NHXI polynucleotide was not introduced.
1	37. (Currently Amended) The purified <i>NHXI</i> polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the <u>truncated</u> <i>NHXI</i> polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO. 9.
1	38. (Previously Presented) The purified <i>NHX1</i> polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 10.
1	39. (Previously Presented) The purified NHX1 polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 500 amino acids in length.

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40. (Previously Presented) The purified NHX1 polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 475 amino acids in length.